

RECOGNIZING SPIRIT OF JACOB
MOCK DOUB AND EXPRESSING
SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT "NATIONAL
TAKE A KID MOUNTAIN
BIKING DAY" SHOULD BE ESTAB-
LISHED IN JACOB MOCK DOUB'S
HONOR

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution, and do so on behalf of the 400 members of the International Mountain Bicycling Association in North Carolina, as well as the 1,500 members of affiliated cycling clubs.

It is appropriate that the House is considering this resolution today. On Saturday, I.M.B.A. brought together kids and adults across the country to hold the first "National Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day."

According to the Surgeon General, the percentage of youth that are overweight has nearly tripled in the last twenty years. Forecasts predict that the current generation of our children could actually have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. Childhood obesity is reaching epidemic proportions. Overweight adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight or obese adults. NIH research indicates that the large increase in childhood obesity rates can be traced to overeating and a lack of exercise.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, was drafted in memory of Jack Doub, an avid teenage mountain biker who had a passion for introducing others to the sport. Jack saw the need for kids to get off the couch, get outside, and get some exercise. After being introduced to mountain biking at age 11 near Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, he won almost every cross-country race he entered for two years. Between the ages of 14 and 17, he became a top national-level downhill and slalom competitor. He actively encouraged others—particularly kids—to ride bicycles. He was a leader in every sense of the word.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE
ACT OF 2003

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 163, a bill to re-instate the draft. I oppose the draft and do not want to see it brought back.

I added my name to this bill in order to promote an open, honest public discussion of the personnel crisis facing our military today, and in that sense I welcome today's vote. It is unfortunate, however, that H.R. 163 is being brought to the floor with only a few hours notice, depriving the American public of the extended exploration this problem deserves.

It is not a coincidence that today's vote is taking place as public uneasiness is rising with regard to the draft. It is obvious to everyone

that the demands of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are narrowing the Administration's options. Our regular divisions and brigades are stretched to the limit. The Reserve and National Guard are being drawn upon to the point where they now comprise nearly half of all U.S. troops in Iraq. Stop loss is the order of the day, holding servicemen and women in uniform past their discharge dates. We're even dipping into the Individual Ready Reserve, calling up people who have completed not only their active duty obligations, but their active reserve obligations as well. Under these circumstances, the growing suspicions of the Administration's intentions in regard to a draft are well-founded.

In fact, I have found confirmation of those suspicions. KITV television news of Honolulu reported last night on a February 11, 2003, Selective Service System document which was provided to me recently and which I have shared with several of my colleagues. Judging from its contents, it appears to be a memo prepared for a meeting between the Acting Director of the Selective Service, the Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and other senior Defense and Selective Service officials. The document takes note of critical shortages of military personnel with certain skills and raises the idea of drafting them to alleviate the shortages.

Features of this "bring back the draft" memo include:

—Draft registration for women as well as men;

—Registration of all citizens and resident aliens between the ages of 18 and 34;

—Require registrants to submit periodic updates of their skills and education up to the age of 35;

—Draftees would be sent not only into the military, but also to the Department of Homeland Security, state, and municipal government agencies; and

—Suggests the House and Senate Armed Services Committees be asked to pass legislation to bring back this expanded draft.

The public deserves the chance to fully consider and discuss these radical ideas and participate meaningfully in any decision to adopt such drastic steps to address the very real personnel needs of our military forces stemming from the demands of multiple deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond. Bringing H.R. 163 to the floor for a vote without hearings, without warning, deprives the Nation and the Congress of an opportunity for that full consideration and discussion.

Right now we have a back door draft, euphemistically called stop loss orders, that keeps troops in uniform even after their enlistments are over. At the same time, we are putting our National Guard and Reserve under intolerable strain, keeping them on active duty far longer than they or their families could have anticipated.

One of the most frustrating aspects of these problems is that they were foreseeable. General Eric Shinseki, then Army Chief of Staff, accurately predicted we would need far more troops than the Administration was willing to commit to occupy Iraq. He was publicly condemned by the Administration for telling the truth. I voted against the Iraq war because, among other reasons, it was clear the Administration was unwilling to send enough troops to pacify that country after the initial military

attack. Paul Bremer, the former chief of the Coalition Provisional Authority, just confirmed that fact in a speech yesterday.

If we are to meet this troop strength crisis, a serious and open discussion needs to take place involving the public, elected leaders, and senior national security officials. The Administration wants to operate in secret in order to hide that discussion from the public. Bringing H.R. 163 to the floor for a vote is a partial victory for public discussion, a reflection of the public's insistent concern over the issue. On the other hand, the furtive way in which it was brought to the floor is a partial victory for those who want to keep the issue in the shadows.

We have been dealing with this matter for years in the Armed Services Committee. During the 14 years that I have served on the Committee, the questions have never been as urgent as they are now:

—What happens if a quick victory in Iraq is elusive, and we remain there for years to come?

—What troop strength levels and mix of active, National Guard, and Reserves will be needed in the coming years?

—Can the all-volunteer military keep its ranks filled?

—If not, what options does the nation have?

—How can we get better pay, benefits, and quality of life improvements to attract and retain enough troops and their families?

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I work on a daily basis with my colleagues and military leaders in the search for answers. It is a long and often difficult process. Its worth is measured in improvements in the lives of our fighting men and women, their families, and our veterans.

I was proud to vote for badly needed equipment like Humvee armor protection and stronger body armor for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have championed better military family housing for troops based in my home state of Hawaii and around the globe. I was one of the authors of the Tricare for Life bill, which provides military retirees with the health coverage they were promised when they enlisted.

What solutions are offered by those who want to pretend we don't face a military personnel crisis? Do they support the Administration's covert moves—despite public denials—to restart the draft? What do they have to say about the stop loss orders that deny thousands of troops and their families the post-service opportunities they were led to expect? How do they propose to deal with our over-reliance on the National Guard and Reserves, which are already strained to the limit? Most importantly, will they discuss these issues fully and openly, or do they want them decided in secret?

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FRANK
FOX

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today in the U.S. Virgin Islands, on my island of St. Croix, residents from all walks of life will gather to remember and pay tribute to Frank J. Fox.

Frank Fox was the president of the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce from 2002 to 2003. But his service to St. Croix and the entire Territory did not begin or end there. He lent his time and talents to a variety of task forces, commissions and committees such as the Governor's Economic Development Committee, The Cruise Ship Task Force, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Navy League, the Landmark Society, Our Town Frederiksted, and St. Croix Friends of Denmark to name but a few. He was also a member of Rotary Mid Island.

But even beyond these Frank and his beloved wife, Beverly were everywhere. They truly adopted St. Croix as home, and did everything they could to make it a better, and more vibrant place for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Regrettably, due to pressing matters up here, I will not be there at the memorial service. And I know that this is where Frank would insist that I be.

Frank lent his expertise to me, during a very difficult political time—when I had introduced and was shepherding the bill to create a Chief Financial Officer for the Virgin Islands. Often as he offered his opinion or advice, he would preface it with “For whatever it is worth.” I can tell you, and others who benefited from his counsel would attest, whatever he said was worth a lot!

I had the pleasure of serving with Frank on the VI EpsCor (Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), where he was the first Chairman. He gave generously of his time, and expertise, and led us through a very successful launching in which the University received the first ever grant to a territory.

He will be fondly remembered for all of the above, but never more than every August when we as a community gather to greet new teachers. It was during his tenure as Chamber president that this activity, which is now tradition, began. It demonstrates the depth of his insight into what is important to the future of the Virgin Islands, and more importantly his commitment to that future. He knew and showed us through his life and service, the importance of the “village,” and its responsibility to our children.

Mr. Speaker, we were all shocked to hear that this man, so full of life, had left us. We will always be grateful for his friendship, and for his service to our community.

We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Beverly and his family. And we thank her for sharing this wonderful man with us so generously.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY TOWLES SASSEEN WILSON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Mrs. Mary Towles Sasseen Wilson, a distinguished native of Henderson, Kentucky, which I have the pleasure of representing in the House. In recognizing Mrs. Wilson, we also pay tribute to all mothers in this great Nation, as she is responsible in large part for the origination of the Mother's Day holiday.

In 1860, Mrs. Wilson was born Mary Towles Sasseen in western Kentucky. She spent most of her life in Henderson as a school teacher. Had she never become involved in the development and spread of Mother's Day, she still would have been recalled fondly by many western Kentuckians as a tireless, caring, and effective educator.

However, Wilson's story was not to end there. Spurred by the love and devotion she felt for her own mother, in 1887 Mary Sasseen held her first public Mother's Day celebration at the Center Street School in Henderson. In 1893 she published and dedicated to her mother a pamphlet entitled Mother's Day Celebration, which defined the holiday and suggested readings and activities suitable for its celebration.

In subsequent years she worked diligently toward the introduction of Mother's Day observations at schools and towns in Kentucky and elsewhere. When Sasseen attempted in 1899 to become one of the region's earliest female elected officials by running for Superintendent of Public Instruction, commentary regarding the campaign cited her as “the author and originator of Mother's Day.”

Although Sasseen's attempts to win elective office failed, she continued to work for the furtherance of Mother's Day in America. In 1904 she married Judge William Marshall Wilson and moved to Freeport, Florida, which was to be the site of her untimely death in 1906. Less than a decade later, in response to the efforts of other notable Mother's Day advocates in the tradition of Mrs. Wilson, President Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Mrs. Wilson's efforts were recognized by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1926, when it passed a resolution acclaiming Mary Towles Sasseen as “the originator of the idea of the celebration of Mother's Day” and giving her credit for “her splendid work in attempting to bring to the minds of children everywhere the full admiration, respect, and love due our mothers.”

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that these are efforts no less worthy of commendation today than when they were first carried out and honored over a century ago. It is my distinct pleasure to bring to the attention of this House the noteworthy legacy of Mrs. Wilson and all of the mothers she worked so hard to honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 5, 2004, I was unavoidably detained and missed the last vote of the day. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 5011, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, October 5, 2004, the House had a vote on rollcall 494, on H.R. 163, a bill to provide for the common defense by requiring that all young persons in the United States, including women, perform a period of military service or a period of civilian service in furtherance of the national defense and homeland security, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The House also had a vote on rollcall 495, on H.R. 2929, a bill to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, and for other purposes and rollcall 496, on H.R. 5011, a bill to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on both.

HONORING CITY OF MONTEVIDEO

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Montevideo who received the National Civic League 2004 All-America City Award.

The City of Montevideo is located in the southern part of the 7th Congressional District of Minnesota, where the prairie meets the Minnesota River Valley. Montevideo is a small rural community that has made a large impact in the surrounding area and through the Nation.

Although I have only represented Montevideo for a short period, they have been a shining example of a progressive community that has been able to keep their identity in a changing world. Most people round these parts have a mutual respect for preserving the outdoors while balancing economic growth and development. People who live in Montevideo maintain a quality of life filled with family and civic responsibilities. They take pride in public service and volunteering.

If the All-America City Award is described as “. . . a Nobel Prize for constructive citizenship,” then the City of Montevideo is an excellent example. The All-America City Award encourages and recognizes civic excellence, honoring the communities in which citizens, government, business, and non-profit organizations demonstrate successful resolution of critical community issues.

Whether you are picnicking along the Chipewewa River or biking aside the Minnesota River, the City of Montevideo is a wonderful example of what a community is supposed to be. I am proud to represent the City of Montevideo and congratulate them on their outstanding performance among a Nation of communities.